

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4210

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, WA

SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL: NAMIBIA

1. AFRICAN "WORKING GROUP", COMPOSED OF LIBYA, BENIN, MALI, OAU OBSERVER REP, SWAPO, REP, NIGERIA, ZAMBIA, TANZANIA AND MAURITIUS MET AFTERNOON OCT. 4 AND MORNING OCT. 5 TO CONSIDER SWAPO DRAFT RESOLUTION. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, DRAFT, TEXT OF WHICH NOT YET AVAILABLE, CALLS FOR MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

2. MANY OF THOSE PRESENT AT "WORKING GROUP" MEETINGS REPORTEDLY PREFER EITHER A STATEMENT FROM THE SC PRESIDENCY, OR A RESOLUTION, INCORPORATING WHAT NOW HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE "BAROODY PROPOSAL", OR A POSTPONEMENT OF FURTHER DEBATE.

3. ONCE AGAIN, AFRICANS APPEAR TO BE IN THE POSITION OF SEEKING HELP TO SAVE THEM FROM THEMSELVES, I.E. KNOWING THAT CHAPTER VII DRAFT WOULD MEET WITH TRIPLE VETO, THEY WOULD PREFER ANOTHER WAY OUT. SINCE DRAFT IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE VETTED UNTIL SOMETIME OCT. 6 OR 7, PSYCHOLOGICAL CONTROL OF DEBATE TENTATIVELY REMAINS OURS.

4. SEVERAL IMPORTANT REPS IN THIS DEBATE SWAPO AND OAU, HAVE TOLD US THAT WERE WE ABLE TO CREATE "A CHANGE
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IN ATMOSPHERE", EVEN BY SPREADING REPORT THAT SOMETHING

WAS UP (ANOTHER MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICANS CONCERNING NAMIBIA, OR REQUEST FOR ANOTHER MEETING WITH NUJOMA, FOR EXAMPLE), THIS MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT TO SUSPEND PROCEEDINGS.

5. PAKISTAN DEP PERM REP HAS TOLD GOVERNOR SCRANTON THAT THERE IS " SOME" CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO HAVING THOSE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN TOWN TALK IN SECURITY COUNCIL NOW, THEN POSTPONE DEBATE UNTIL END OF MONTH. WERE WE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE THIS INCLINATION BY FLOATING SOME SORT OF INDICATION ALONG ABOVE LINES, WE MIGHT WELL BE ABLE TO COME OUT OF THIS ONE FOR THE TIME BEING. PROBLEM IS APPARENTLY MOST "FRONT LINE" PRESIDENTS, WHO ARE HEAVILY PREOCCUPIED WITH RHODESIAN QUESTION IN AFRICA, ARE NOT FOCUSSED PARTICULARLY ON NAMIBIA ISSUE HERE, WITH RESULTING POSSIBILITY THAT WE COULD SLIP, WILLY-NILLY, INTO CHAPTER VII LANGUAGE, A RESULTING VETO, AND A COMPLICATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE WHICH COULD SPILL OVER INTO RHODESIAN TALKS.

6. WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT WE BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE A SUSPENSION OF DEBATE, BY HOLDING OUT SOMETHING TANGIBLE WHICH AFRICANS CAN GRASP. BUT, WE MUST DO IT SOON, OR ELSE DRAFT WILL BE OUT AND TIME FOR DELAY MIGHT BE LOST.
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